

# OPINION

DAILY JOURNAL

JEFFREY W. OWEN  
PUBLISHER  
E-mail address:  
jowen@thejournalnet.com

SCARLETT SYSE  
EDITOR  
E-mail address:  
syse@thejournalnet.com

"The Daily Journal is dedicated to community service, to defense of individual rights and to providing those checks upon government which no constitution can ensure."

SCOTT ALEXANDER  
founding editor, 1963

## Opinion roundup

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Today the Daily Journal presents a sampling of editorials from around the state and nation:

### Vaccine prevents cancer, doesn't promote sex

The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne

The 13 women in the Indiana Senate want Hoosier girls to add getting a vaccination against the human papillomavirus, or HPV, to their back-to-school checklists.

A bill in the state Senate would require female students entering sixth grade starting in the 2008-09 school year to be immunized against HPV to help prevent cervical cancer.

Schools would not refuse entry to students who don't receive the vaccination, but school officials would need to file a report with the state Department of Health detailing the number of students who received the immunization and the number who did not.

The legislation penned by Sen. Connie Lawson, R-Danville, has received bipartisan support from all of the Senate's female members. But the recommendation would be better received if it were coming from state health officials rather than politicians.

The human papillomavirus, which causes genital warts and cervical cancer, is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. There is no cure. An effective vaccine prevents infection.

Critics object to the cost for parents. And they fear it will encourage girls to have sex.

The issue is not promiscuity. It is cancer prevention. Parents should research the vaccine and consider vaccinating their adolescent daughters with or without any state requirement.

### Exercising right to vote getting easier

Journal & Courier, Lafayette

Tippecanoe County will be among the first counties in Indiana to allow voters to cast their ballots wherever they want.

The county will serve as a test site for a new vote center program in May's municipal elections. Currently, counties are divided into voting precincts. Residents are assigned to vote at sites near their homes. The new system would do away with precincts, allowing more flexibility for local voters, who could cast their ballots at any of the large voting centers created around the county.

We as a nation crow often about our liberties, not the least of which is our right to vote. But historically more than half of eligible voters don't exercise that right for mid-term elections (and fewer participate in off-year elections).

A bipartisan delegation led by Secretary of State Todd Rokita last year studied voting centers. Their findings indicated the system streamlines election management, saves money and increases voter convenience.

Increasing voter participation is a worthy and important objective. If this plan is carefully and thoughtfully carried out, the county — and the American electoral process — will be the better for it.

### Couple low interest rate with more student aid

The Yakima (Wash.) Herald-Republic

College-educated young people are good for society and the economy, but the reality is that most high school graduates will need some kind of financial assistance.

Recognizing that, the U.S. House voted overwhelmingly to cut interest rates on need-based student loans. The legislation, approved 356-71, would, over the next five years, halve rates on the subsidized federal loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. The cost of the rate cut is estimated at \$6 billion. An estimated 5.5 million students get the loans each year.

Most college students — particularly those from lower-middle class working families — are familiar with student loans and many couldn't attend college without them. But interestingly enough, the House debate also focused on where to set the nation's education priorities — helping college graduates pay off their debts or expanding federal grants for low-income students.

There's room, and need, for both. Reducing the interest rate will be a major boost for many students, and the House action dovetails nicely with other federal efforts in recent years to ensure the loans are repaid. And, of course, when the loans are easier to repay, with the reduced interest, it frees up more money in the long run for more loans to help others.

### Boost in number of troops crucial to victory

The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

The Bush administration is beginning to talk specifics about increasing the number of "boots on the ground." Defense Secretary Robert Gates says he will press Congress to authorize 92,000 more troops for the active-duty Army and Marine Corps.

This would be a wise move, long overdue. As recently as last year, the Pentagon's long-term blueprint called for cutting the Army from 491,000 troops to 482,400 by 2011.

That was unrealistic, given the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with the continuing risk of crisis in trouble spots such as Korea and the Taiwan Strait.

The new plan calls for boosting the Army by 65,000. The Marine Corps, now at 202,000, would grow by 27,000.

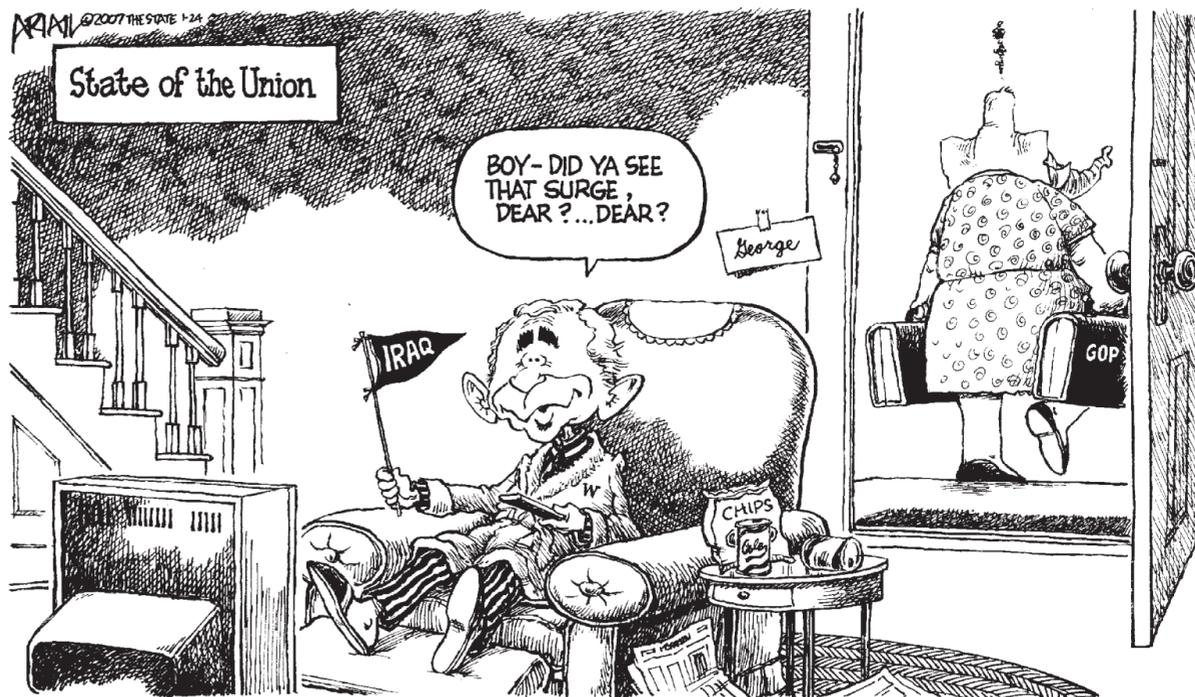
The plans to increase the active-duty force are unrelated to the troop "surge" President Bush has ordered in Iraq. The surge is a short-term strategy; increasing the active-duty force as a whole cannot happen overnight.

Pentagon officials plan to first make permanent a 30,000-troop temporary increase in the Army that was approved earlier, while steadily adding the remainder through recruitment and retention over five years.

Congress should act quickly on the administration's request.



BUSH



## Failure of Iraq plan would cause Vietnam-like disaster

I refuse to agree or disagree with President Bush and his decision to deploy more troops into Iraq; however, I do agree with him when he says that we cannot afford to lose this war, and that if we quit now, it will haunt us for a very long time.

It is not wise for us to sit around and debate whether this war is right or wrong; it is too late for that. We all wish that we could win in a convincing manner and move on to the next chapter of our history. After all, the winner of any war always writes the book. Unfortunately, however, we are not winning this war, which even the president acknowledges.

In a book I published a few years ago, "American Society Through Confucian Eyes," I cited the political philosopher Machiavelli, who believed that a chief decision-maker must act like a fox and a lion. The leader must be as tactical as a fox and as forceful as a lion in executing authority.

Up to this point, Bush has utilized only the force of a lion in dealing with Iraq, including his new strategy of sending over more troops. Based on reports, we have spent too much money and lost too many lives in Iraq; however, unlike the past, the president's new strategy may have some elements of the fox.

After the announcement of deploying more troops, the newly controlled Democratic Congress had an immediate negative reaction. Even some Republican members of Congress questioned the new policy.

According to a poll, 65 percent of Americans think that this policy is not wise and will not work. Despite the opposition, the president announced that we will proceed with his plan. After all, we must remember that he is our president, commander-in-chief, and chief



Yu-long Ling

decision-maker in foreign affairs. We need to realize that criticizing him will not do any good.

He has made up his mind, so we must accept the mistakes that have been made and move on. Anyway, the more I think about it, the more I feel that perhaps moving more troops in Iraq could possibly be one of the many ways to get out of Iraq.

Recently, the lack of popularity of this war made me think of Vietnam. At the outset of our involvement there, the justification used by the administration was to stop the spread of Communism. If we did not stop it in Vietnam, all of Southeast Asia would become "red." This was also known as the "domino theory."

President Nixon came up with a new plan: Vietnamization. Under this plan, the goal was to shift the burden of fighting to the South Vietnamese army in their fight against North Vietnam, rather than continue the responsibility of our American troops.

However, this plan failed, and North Vietnam won the war. The U.S. troops packed up and returned home, seemingly in shame.

Nixon, however, showed us a victory sign and told us that no president should leave his servicemen and women behind in dangerous situations. Instead, they would be brought home in honor. Even though the Vietnam war was very unpopular, our commander-in-chief did bring our troops home, the outcome notwithstanding.

## Essence of globalization is competition, which helps economy grow even more

Our generation didn't invent globalization, but we've certainly moved it to a new level.

Even here in the Midwest, it's hard to find a product, a job or a community that hasn't been impacted by the high degree of connectivity among customers, businesses, buyers and sellers of all kinds around the globe.

We've enjoyed a cornucopia of incredible new products, from cell phones to flat-screen televisions to microprocessor-laden automobiles, that have had many or all of their principal parts made abroad. We send our mayors to Asia in search of jobs, and we welcome the investment of a foreign-owned consortium to operate our state's toll road.

Well, some of us do, anyway. Many of us don't like it a bit, and I'm not just talking about the toll road lease.

Even many of those who are full-time players in the global economic game, traveling abroad regularly to tend after business, will privately admit that they wish they didn't have to do it. A few even will say that it is a game that America is not playing by the same rules as other countries.

Certainly those inside players who are skeptics can find plenty of company on the outside. There has always been something about contact with foreign cultures that gives rise to fierce passions, especially when they can be said to be responsible for some slight or offense.

But in the ramped-up, high-octane world of global commerce, where goods and services fly in all directions, it can be hard to



Patrick Barkey

find a single villain. So some have made war with the concept itself.

There are some who can draw a connection between globalization and almost every perceived shortcoming of the American economy.

Declines in manufacturing employment? Due to outsourcing production abroad. Companies less likely to offer health insurance? Occurs because their competitors offshore don't pay this expense. Decay in downtown retail districts? Caused by big companies like Wal-Mart moving in and selling foreign-made goods.

There is an element of truth to these assertions. But it's a partial truth. There is in fact much more to the story. For if we are to enumerate the supposed evils of a globalized economic environment, we should list the benefits as well. And there are many.

In our role as consumers, it's hard to argue that globalization has been anything but a bonanza. Take the automobile market, for example.

Competition has brought more choice. There are now more than 12 companies in the United States that sell more than 30,000 vehicles a year. It has also forced manufacturers to make better

cars, incorporating the latest technology on even the lower priced models. And it has helped keep prices in check, to an astounding degree. As recently as the early 1990s, the price index for motor vehicles and parts showed a steady, upward tick, rising by about 3 percent a year. But that has completely stopped.

Adjusted for vehicle content, prices have been steady and actually declined in the wake of the 2001 recession, standing today at levels roughly comparable to 1996. It's been that way throughout much of the economy. That not only has a direct benefit to everyone who buys anything but yields an even greater benefit to the economy as a whole.

By interrupting the cycle where cost increases today show up in product prices tomorrow, global competition has helped keep overall price inflation in check, which has helped the economy grow faster overall.

But the essence of globalization is competition. We economists like to sing the praises of competition, but I doubt very much that we would like to feel its full force — say, in a daily battle with other economists just to keep our jobs — any more than the next person.

Yet that competition would make us better economists, just as it has helped the motor vehicle industry make a better car.

None of us want to see that happen. At this point, I say just let the president do the job he was elected to do.

Unfortunately, this war in Iraq is a setback just like Vietnam, but we recovered then, and we can recover again.

The United States is very resourceful. We always continue to move forward to the next phase of the game.

In the final analysis, perhaps we have lost this round, but that doesn't mean that our ultimate purpose has been thwarted. Remember that there will always be another round to keep promoting our national interest.

The game of international politics, the roughest game of all, is endless and has no scoreboard or time limit.

And America has a well-known history of bouncing back and playing a major role in this.

So, is it time for "Iraqization"?

Professor Yu-long Ling holds the Williams Chair in Law and Public Service at Franklin College and is an internationally respected expert in foreign policy. He writes this weekly opinion column for the Daily Journal. Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.

So, is it time for "Iraqization"?

## YOUR VIEWS

### Bill led to cheaper insurance for schools

To the editor:

As the 2007 session of the General Assembly gets under way, we would like to note the terrific success of a bill that passed with little fanfare in 2006 but has meant a great deal to schools throughout the state.

When Gov. Mitch Daniels signed a bill that permits the creation of insurance trusts, school insurance premiums were at all-time highs and the educational system was searching for ways to bring greater efficiencies to our operations. This bill has successfully addressed both of these issues by providing the necessary tools and support for our local schools.

The legislation has allowed the educational service centers, a group of nine local consortiums consisting of both public and non-public schools, to establish insurance trusts for property casualty and worker compensation insurance. Currently, 111 Indiana school corporations have expressed interest in joining these trusts, and we anticipate a high level of participation.

The mere opportunity to establish these trusts has already saved millions of dollars in premiums for schools across our state. Schools have reported savings of up to 54 percent in their property casualty and worker compensation insurance premiums because of the competitive marketplace these efforts have created. These dollars can be spent on resources that will improve student achievement.

Additionally, the bill encouraged local school corporations to participate more fully in the centers' cooperative purchasing and services agreements. In a recent report provided to the Indiana State Board of Education by the Department of Education, the centers reported documented annual savings for their school members of \$23 million, and this figure does not include the tremendous premium savings provided by the establishment of the insurance trusts.

We believe that many more millions were saved by schools using service center pricing to drive down their current vendors' pricing.

Daniels' leadership and the support of many Indiana legislators in promoting the efficiencies provided by the bill should be lauded. The governor has not only spoken eloquently about this need but has provided us with the tools to take successful actions. His strong support for the bill and the educational service centers has proved to be beneficial for our state.

The 2007 session will address key educational issues, such as full-day kindergarten and an increase in the school funding formula. As our state continues to operate under a balanced budget, we realize that education will be asked to maximize our resources to focus on our most important goal: providing a quality and meaningful education to every child.

With the passage of the bill, we will continue to streamline expenses while putting these savings into the classroom.

We appreciate Daniels' support of the educational service centers and the educators throughout Indiana who share a collective desire to help improve student learning and efficiencies among our schools. We look forward to working with the governor to continue collaborative efforts among schools to drive available dollars to classrooms.

Larry E. Risk,  
Executive director  
Wilson Education Center  
Charlestown